COLUMBIA TENANTS FIGHTING.

COMPLAIN OF INCREASES IN 5TH AVENUE GROUND RENTS.

College Proposes to Jump the Rents From 100 to 400 Per Cent. a Year-Mrs. Sage and D. O. Mills Among Those Affected -Property Originally a State Gift.

A dispute that is not far from acrimonious is now going on between the trustees of Columbia College and the lessees of some of the most valuable residential realty in the city of New York over an advance to be made by Columbia in the price that has been charged for ground rent during the last two decades. The property is all in the vicinity of the homes of the Vanderbilts and other very rich families. Among those who have residences on the ground involved are Mrs. Russell Sage and D. O.

The old leases being about to expire, the college demands a rental of about 31/2 per cent. on the market value of the property, a jump of anywhere from 100 to 300 or 400 per cent. It is said that in the disposition of the great wealth which her ausband left her Mrs. Sage had Columbia in mind as a worthy institution to be re membered. Now it is declared that Mrs. Sage does not think so well of the institution. Although Mr. Mills personally would

not discuss the situation, it is known that he has told the Columbia trustees that he will not sign a new lease next May, when the old one expires, if they persist in their demand for higher rent. It was related yesterday that Mr. Mills holds some of the obligations of Columbia in the shape of bonds and that his returns amount to but I per cent. on the investment. For this reason he cannot quite see why Columbia should demand for ground rent alone 33% per cent, on the full market value of the realty in addition to the payment of all taxes, insurance and the like by the les-

When the dispute over the increase in ground rent reached a crisis some time ago the lessees formed an association and demanded arbitration under the terms of their leases. The appraisement of the property on which the new rentals were to be charged was made on behalf of the college by Douglas Robinson and H. S. Ely, realty experts. The ground embraced almost two solid blocks extending along Fifth avenue from Forty-ninth to Fiftyfirst street, taking in all the lots in the rear except those which faced on Sixth avenue.

The ground rent under the old leases amounted to \$200,000 a year, but under the new leases it was proposed to fix it at about \$576,000, an average advance of nearly 300 per cent. The leaseholders made a strong protest and the arbitration was the result. Michael Coleman, formerly a member of the Board of Taxes and Assess ment, was chosen by Columbia and Henry Lewis Morris by the leaseholders. Should they fail to agree each of them is empowered to select two residents of the neighborhood who know the situation, and from these four names one is to be chosen by pallot. If it becomes necessary to add a third member to the board the votes of any two will be final. Thus far but one piece of property involved has been considered by the arbitrators and no decision has been reached upon it.

The value of all the ground involved is now estimated by the experts for the pollege at \$15,276,200. The lessees, while not disputing this valuation, say that they should be allowed to share in any profits that may arise from improving the land, as without the improvements the lots would bring in no revenue at all.

They also declare that they would have no objection to Columbia's getting 31/2 per cent. on the value of the land if the college was willing to sell, but this the Columbia trustees will not consent to do. They also

point to a clause in their lease which says that a "reasonable" ground rent is to be charged without any reference to the actual market value of the land.

This property came to Columbia by grant from the State in the early years of the nineteenth century. Although then a wilderness it was called by courtesy Botanic Park, and Columbia was obligated to move the college from downtown to the new site the college from downtown to the new site within twelve years. It was also stipulated that the college should deliver if required at least one healthy exotic flower, thrub or plant of each kind (which it raised) of which they shall have more than one at the time of application" to any college in the State applying for them. The college the State applying for them. The college afterward had an act passed by the Legis

atterward had an act plassed by the Logis-lature removing these restrictions.

The first lease was granted to Randolph Hurry, an architect, for the purpose of Inducing him to build there. He paid Islmost no rent. Then other leases were made to those who would improve. The ses expired nearly twenty-one years ago, and there was a fight then over the vances which the college wanted to make. Many who now occupy the property are either the original leaseholders or their tiescendants. At that time the charge was been cent. on the valuation of the ground, but it was changed in the leases to "a reasoncharge.

The college also owned the block along Fifth avenue between Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth streets, but sold it to the Dutch Reformed Church, which improved Dutch Reformed Church, which improved the corner of Forty-eighth street and dis-posed of the rest of the plot. The college undertook to prevent the sale, asserting that it had been sold in its entirety for thurch purposes only. There was no pro-vision in the deed, however, to prevent the sale and the courts upheld it. Ogden Goelet now owns the house at Forty-ninth breet and Fifth avenue.

John Kane, a brother of Delancey Kane,

leased a few years ago the property at the northwest corner of Forty-ninth street and Fifth avenue from the college. The porthwest corner of Forty-ninth street and Fifth avenue from the college. The property had seventy feet front on Fifth avenue. He built on forty-seven feet of it and tried to dispose of the remainder, but could not do so, it is reported, because the ground rent was so high. He paid \$19,500 a year, and the proportion of this rent which would fall upon the land not covered by his house would be about \$4,500 a year. In order use would be about \$4,500 a year. In order to sublease it, it is said, he had to pay a part of the ground rent for the extra twenty-

The Ziegler estate owns the house at the buthwest corner of Fiftieth street, and a lot of money has been spent on the property. Those who are fighting the increase of rent say that the executors of the estate have been trying to dispose of the least and house for a year without success, be cause the ground rent is so high. About two years ago B. Altman bought the lease and the house at the northwest corner of Fiftieth street from the Gurnee estate, the price, it is said, being \$125,000. The gro rent under the old lease was about \$4,200. When the lease was renewed the ground rent was raised to \$17,500. In addition to this the lessee has to pay about \$7,000

Henry Clews leases the ground and owns the house at 630 Fifth avenue. At present he pays to the college a ground rent of about \$3,000, but it is planned to raise this rent to hearly \$10,000. Mrs. Sage, who lives next tioor, also pays about \$3,000 a year to the college, and her ground rent under the present plan will be put up to about \$10,000. who lives in a residence on leased ground at 634 Fifth avenue, now pays about \$4,200 ground rent, but he has been notified that this will be raised to something over

\$17,000 a year. house erected on leased ground at 636 Fifth avenue by the late Samuel D. Babcock at a cost of \$300,000 has been vacant since May 1, 1905. After his death it was rented for one year to John R. Drexel for \$20,000. Mr. Drexel was then building a house uptown. The next year the house was rented for \$19,000. It is now vacent, those connected with the estate say, on account of the prospective increase in the

The state of the s

ground rent. The ground rent under the present lease is \$4,389. The rent proposed by the college is \$17,535. This would make the rent and taxes exceed \$24,000 a year.

These are but a few of the increases proposed by the college and the leaseholders say thay cannot understand why the college should make whatthey call such unreasonable demands. They say that they have spent large sums in the erection and improvement of buildings, they pay all taxes, which are now double what they were fifteen years ago, they cannot rent the property for business and they cannot sublet or assign the leases without the consent of the college.

"It is difficult to understand the position

ne college.
"It is difficult to understand the position assumed by the trustees of the college," says a statement issued by the leaseholders' association. "They appealed to the State of New York to relieve them from conditions yet impose upon the leaseholders conditions yet impose upon the leaseholders conditions grievous to be borne. They induced leaseholders by promises of fair treatment and reasonable ground rents to erect buildings upon their ground. Now they demand exorbitant ground rents. The leaseholders feel that they have been buncoed; they cannot rent their buildings for enough to pay the ground rent and taxes. The college will not sell the land nor buy the buildings. The treasurer of the college, to whom the trustees refer the leaseholders when appealed to laughs at the leaseholders and says: What are you going to do about it?"

Treasurer Nash of Columbia was not at his office yesterday. A man close to the

his office yesterday. A man close to the business organization of Columbia said, however, that the college needed the increased revenues and as the ground in question had increased greatly in value it was felt that they should charge a much larger rental on the new larger rental on the new larger. arger rental on the new leases

SEEING CHINATOWN.

Three Slummers With a Chivalrous Spirit Butt Into Lots of Trouble.

Three men who had apparently dined well got out of a cab in Chatham Square early vesterday morning and started in to see the after midnight sights of Chinatown. One of the many "guides" who hang about the quarter soon had the party

"We've just run down for a little fun, old man," said one of the men familiarly to the guide. "Studying types, don't you Take us where we can see some

"How about Scotty Lavelle's chu chu parlors for a starter," asked the guide, who explained that Scotty's place got its name because in the long ago when it was started the seats were arranged like those

n a railroad train. "Sounds good; let's try it," said the men The three at once got into the spirit of the place and were fast making friends with several of the boys and girls by buying

As they were drinking a man began to woman about some money 'This here don't go, Liz," he said. "How

in hell can I live on two or three dollars a day? You got to hustle harder, I tell you. day? You got to hustle harder, I ten you.

The woman cried and the man promptly knocked her down.
"Damn if I'll stand for that," said one of the three slummers. "You boys are not going to stand for such brutality are you?"

They said they guessed not and went to the woman's rescue. She turned on them like a cat. Who asked them to come to her assistance, she wanted to know. "I guess Liz Callahan kin take care of herself. Take that!" she shrieked, clawing four finger nail furrows down the face of Rescuer No. 1.

Beat their nuts off, Billy," called several of the other patrons, resentful at such un-heard of interference.

The gang with one mind attacked the three strangers, knocking them down and kicking them. One of the three managed so get out and call a policeman. The re-serves answered a riot call and smashed in the place. They found the two men lying on the floor unconscious and bleeding, their clothes almost torn off, with one of

the gang stooping over them and going through their pockets.

The gang fought hard to get away, but seven were correlled. Dr. Bryant of Hudson street hospital spent an hour sewing up scalp wounds on the injured men and making an effort to restore their faces to normal ing an effort to restore their faces to normal ondition. They were then locked up, charged with intoxication. They gave their names as Herbert Gardner, 32 years old, and John Sumner, 33 years old, and said they were employed as salesmen by the American Steel and Wire Company and lived at the Hotel Imperial. They declined to say who the third member of

the party was.

Between them they had nearly \$500 Between them they had hearly sour.

"Let me congratulate you on your lucky escape from possible murder and certain robbery had not the police been on the job," said Magistrate Crane in discharging the Tomber of t them yesterday morning in the Tombi police court. He also discharged the other

PHONE RECORDS BROKEN. New York at the Head of the List in the Number of Subscribers.

"New York city leads the world in many enterprises, but few folks realize how far we are ahead of Europe in the matter of telephones," said an officer of the telephone company yesterday. "We have just been compiling a few figures on the subject and find that within a radius of about thirty-five miles from the City Hall there are 389,000 phones in service. Although complete statistics are unobtainable, a com-parison shows that New York has more phones than London and the ten other

telephones than London and the ten other largest cities in Great Britain combined; not only more than Paris, but more than all the telephones in France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland combined; more telephones than are to be found in the twenty largest cities in Germany."

The gain for the territory in and near New York for the year was 67,000 telephones—nearly 200 a day—a gain in one year of more subscribers than there are in many of the largest cities in the world.

year of more subscribers than there are in many of the largest cities in the world. The telephone directory has now become so large that one edition fills a train of twenty-five freight cars.

Six new exchanges (Rector, Tremont, Worth, Beekman, Stuyvesant and Audubon) have been established this year, and the Columbus and Seventy-nint street exchanges have been enlarged. exchanges have been enlarged.

SCRANTON'S TYPHOID EPIDEMIC. Fifty New Cases Yesterday Make a Total of

791-Hospitals Crowded. SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 29 .- Fifty new cases of typhoid fever were reported to the Bureau of Health for the twenty-four hours ending noon to-day, making a total of 751 for the month and of 791 for the five weeks the

disease has been epidemic

The official record of deaths shows 31. The State Hospital, with eighty-four cases in its wards, to-day gave notice that it is overcrowded and can receive no additional patients. The Moses Taylor Hospital has thirty-eight, the Hahnemann thirty-four and the Westside twenty, with at least fifty cases in three private hospitals. More than a hundred trained nurses independent of the hospital forces are on duty in the city.

Your Plans For 1907 should include

Telephone Service

at both office and home. It will save you much time and

NEW YORK TELEPHONE OO., 15 Day Street

AFTER JEROME'S MEN DESTROY THE SEIZED CATALOGUES.

Miss Robinson Escapes Anoth er Ordeal in Court, but the League Will Stay Unvindicated—Cortelyou Approves Com-stock's Work and Boosts His Salary.

There will be no prosecution of the young woman known in the court records as Anna Robinson, bookkeeper of the Art Students' League, for the dissemination last summer of the catalogue of the league containing representations of nude drawings by the young men and women pupils.

Anthony Comstock, who seized 3,650 of the 12,000 copies printed, and who caused the arrest of Miss Robinson because she sold him a copy and was about the only one in the league building whom he could find when he made his raid on August 2 last, has consented that the case shall be dropped. He has done this because, by order of District Attorney Jerome, the seized catalogues have been destroyed, and also because it is the opinion of the District Attorney's office that the "publication was done with honorable intent and involves no such moral obliquity as is deserving of punishment by

On December 22 Mr. Comstock wrote a letter to District Attorney Jerome saying: Since there is nothing which in any way impeaches the integrity of Miss Robinson I shall be most happy to extend to her a Christ. mas greeting by the dismissal of any further proceedings against her.

None of the officers of the Art League was consulted about this move. One of the directors said last night that there had been no official consideration of the subject, and that if it was true that the matter was to be dropped it would be done despite the protest of the league's officers. Our disposition," he said, "is to fight this thing out to the end. As a body we have not consented to any such arrangement, and if any of our officers or our counsel have done so it has been without any specific authorization. I rather think the matter is not ended yet."

This director said also that Mr. Jerome not long ago offered to drop the case if the offending nude pictures should be torn out of the catalogues. The offer was declined at the time, and it was the belief that when Miss Robinson's case should come up before Special Sessions, for which court she was held by Magistrate Mayo on October 30 last, a strong fight would be made to prove that the catalogue did not offend the law in any way.

The ostalogues were destroyed in Mr.

The catalogues were destroyed in Mr. Comstock's office early last week. Several of Mr. Jerome's detectives spent two or three hours of hard work in ripping the catalogues to pieces. The remants were carted away and burned. Mr. Jerome carted away and burned. Mr. shirth had them destroyed on his own authority, precisely as he would have gambling apprecisely as he would have gambling approach the did it after he paratus destroyed. He did it after had made up his mind not to prosecute Miss Robinson. As soon as Mr. Comstock

Miss Robinson. As soon as Mr. Comstock saw the catalogues destroyed he gave his consent to dropping the prosecution, contending that the object at which he aimed (the more or less general suppression of the pamphlet) had been accomplished.

Assistant District Attorney Smythe, who has had charge of the case, will move its dismissal when it comes up for trial. A new catalogue, omitting the pictures, has been put out and Mr. Smythe held that any legal questions involved were purely acalegal questions involved were purely academic and that therefore the interests of justice require no further prosecution of

An officer of the league said last night that while it would doubtless be welcome news to Miss Robinson that she would not have to face a trial the officials would really regret a dismissal of the case without having a judicial determination of their conten-tion that the catalogue was a work of art. "I am glad that the case has been disposed of," said Comstock. "We have gained our point. We never wanted to prosecute Miss Robinson, much less persecute her. We regard her as absolutely innocent of any intentional wrongdoing and we are glad that the case will not come up again. Our only desire was to uphold morals and the law and we acted in accordance with decisions of the Court of Appeals of New

York."

Mr. Comstock was exhibiting yesterday to his friends his commission from the Post Office Department as a post office inspector for 1907. It had been printed that he had been dismissed from the service as a result of complaints about the Art Students' League raid and also on other complaints. For thirty-four years he has been an inspector at a pominal salary of been an inspector at a nominal salary of \$1 a year. Postmaster-General Cortelyou has raised his salary to \$1,200 a year and has indorsed his work in suppressing vice.

Last summer Mr. Comstock had a personal encounter with Hugh Gordon Miller, who charged that he was a grafter and who has since repeated his accusations in court. Comstock made a report of his financial affairs to Chief Inspector W. S. Mayer in the New York office and he in turn forwarded it to Chief Inspector Vickery in Washington, with the complaints that had been made against Comstock. The papers were transmitted to Postmaster-General (ortelyou, who on November 5 last wrote to Mr. Vickery saying that the reports did not seem to call for further action and adding:

I feel that I should avail myself of this opportunity to express in the strongest terms the department's appreciation of the faithful service rendered for so many years by Inspector Comstock. There may have been a few cases in which his methods have been open to some criticism, but any man who wages war upon impurity and obscenity cannot hope to avoid criticism. He has stood as a barrier between the youth of the land and a frightfully demoralizing traffic, and I want him to know that, looking at his work in its larger aspect, he has had and will continue to have the hearty support of this department.

Speaking of this indorsement by Mr. Cortelyou and of his appointment for another year as inspector, Mr. Comstock said

yesterday:

"I would be willing to spend another thirty-five years in my work if I could secure at the end such an indorsement as that of Mr. Cortelyou and my superior officers. It pays for all the hard knocks I have received."

Comstock spent several days in Washington last week consulting with Chief

ington last week consulting with Chief Inspector Vickery and with the Postmaster-General. He declared yesterday that they all expressed complete satisfaction with his work, and he said his raise of salary, with out any stipulation that he should sever

his connection with the anti-vice society, showed what his standing was.

One of the reasons why the Government one of the reasons why the Government has raised Comstock's salary and has kept him as a post office inspector, it was said yesterday, is because none of the other inspectors cares to do the kind of sleuthing in which he engages. The Government recognizes that some one has to do it, and believes that with his thirty-four years experience there is no one so well equipped

as Comstock.

In telling of his work for the past year In telling of his work for the had made Comstock said yesterday that he had made seventy-seven arrests and had seized more seventy-seven arrests and had seized more said he had seized 251,012 improper pictures and postal cards, 702,281 bad booklets and ilars, more than 64,000 articles sold for purposes, 3,797 books and 7,360 ickets. He declared that within two weeks he had seized 87,000 postal cards and 166,000 booklets that were harmful to public morals, besides more than 200,000

Old Hutch's Partner Dies at Poor Farm. SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 29.-George H. Leonard, who was once a partner of Hutchinson in the Chicago wheat pit and was as-sociated with him in the famous wheat corner in the early '80s, died at the county poor farm on Thursday. At the time of the famous wheat corner Leonard was rated a multi-

the Bridge State Committee Committee

COMSTOCK DROPS ART CASE GOMPERS WORKING AGAINST C.F.U. MATHOT QUITS POLICE JOB. Sends a Secret Circular to the Local Union

> A number of the officers of unions in the Central Federated Union were worked up yesterday over a secret circular which has been sent by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor to the presidents of national and international unions whose locals have delegates to the Central Federated Union.

The circular calls attention to the fact that the C. F. U. must come to a final vote today on the ultimatum of the Minneapolis convention of the A. F. of L. giving it to January 1 to reinstate certain unions and to expel others, the alternative being the revocation of the C. F. U. charter and the forming of a new Central Labor Union. It is pointed out in the circular that Vice-President O'Connell and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor appeared before the C. F. U. and fully explained the decision, from which there is no appeal. The circular says:

It devolves upon the executive officers of the international unions to do their share of their duty in the premises and I therefore write that you communicate with the local unions in the city of New York that they may understand how imperative it is that they not only have their delegates in attendance at the meeting of December 30, but that very urgent advice be given by you to them in order that the duty may be properly

and promptly performed. Of course you will understand the inadvisability of any reference to this letter being made in the communications which you may address to the local unions of your

I may add, as you will know, that it is the purpose of your local union in New city, your international union, as well as the American Federation of Labor itself, render any assistance we possibly can to protect workmen who may be engaged in a dispute, to aid them in any way within our power, but the international unions cannot have their members in New York city or elsewhere subject to be ordered on strike unless the authority is given by the international Vice-President O'Connell and Secretary

Morrison of the American Federation of Labor have also issued a circular to the local unions in reply to the Actors' National Protective Union which holds that the rules of trade unionism made it the duty of the stage hands and musicians to strike at the Metropolitan Opera House. It says that the question is the obeying of the rules of the A. F. of L. and not sympathy with the Actors' Protective Union President Henry De Veaux of the Actors'

National Protective Union said yesterday that as the president of a national union Gompers should have sent him one of the circulars but failed to do so. He will raise that point before the Central Federated

HOLDUP BY NEGRO SOLDIER.

Man Supposed to Have Been Discharged by President Shoots Chinaman.

EL RENO, Okla., Dec. 29 .- An unidentified negro, wearing the uniform of the United States army, shot and dangerously wounded Lee Sung, who resisted an attempt by the negro to hold up his laundry last night. The assailant escaped. Soldiers from Fort Reno, the Sheriff's force, police and many posses of citizens are searching for him.

The numerous outrages perpetrated by negroes, believed to be discharged soldiers of the 25th Infantry, have aroused public sentiment to a white heat. Lee Sung was alone in his laundry when the negro entered. Pointing a revolver at him, he demanded his money. The Chinaman attempted to draw a revolver and the negro fired, the

draw a revolver and the negro fired, the bullet entered Lee Sung's abdomen.

The negro was dressed in the full uniform of the United States army, but it is not known whether he is a member of the negro troops now stationed at Fort Reno or one of the discharged soldiers. Some of those dismissed for participation in the Brownsville riots carried their uniforms away with them.

Major Penrose, commanding officer at Fort Reno, when asked what action he had taken and whether the roll of the troops at the fort had been called, refused to dis-"I am getting tired of this business," he said. "Every time a crime is committed

it is laid to the negro soldiers. I won't tell anything about what has been done further than to say that we are doing all in our power to aid in the apprehension of the

Major Penrose says the condition of Capt.
Macklin, who was shot by a negro soldier
bent on robbery, shows much improvement, although it probably will require
many weeks to restore his health.

STEPHEN MOTT WRIGHT'S MONEY, Third Cousins Say He Disposed of a Million Under Undue Influen

MINROLA, L. I., Dec. 29.-Stephen S. Dodge and his brother, William H. Dodge, both of Manhattan, filed in the Surrogate's Court here to-day an application asking for the revocation of the will of Stephen Mott Wright, who died in Sea Cliff, L. I., in September last, leaving property valued at more than a million dollars. The will was probated in November by Surrogate Jackson. The Dodge brothers are third cousins of Mr. Wright. The testator left half of his property to his three cousins, Mary Louise Storrs, Henry J. Storrs and Electa Storrs Craft, all of Plainfield, N. J.

The other half of the estate was left to Mrs. Ida Beach Stuart, who is referred to in the will as "a friend." Excepting some jewelry and wearing apparel, which are given to the cousins named, the contents of the Wright residence at Sea Cliff go to Mrs. Stuart. The house in which Mrs. Stuart now lives is said to have been given to her by Mr. Wright shortly before his death. By the terms of the will she can have the use of some of the furniture during her lifetime or she can dispose of it to the cousins named in the will or to an organiza tion known as The Goats. The execu-tors of the will, which was executed in January last, are Mrs. Stuart, Henry Storrs

nd C. A. Cowen.
The Dodge brothers hase their application on the ground that they were not cited when the will was probated. They further allege fraud and undue influence and that document was not executed by Mr Wright as an act of his own free will. Sur-rogate Jackson will hear argument on

TRY TO LYNCH WIFE MURDERER. Mob in Pennsylvania Gives Young Man a Close Call.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Dec. 29.-Indignant because his young wife refused to live with him any longer, alleging he treated her cruelly, William Whittager of Mount Carmel is in prison charged with cutting her throat from ear to ear with a razor last night in presence of his mother and the mother of his victim. He was later captured of his victim. He was later captured and imprisoned in the jail, twenty miles away, the police hurrying him from Mount Carmel as soon as possible, to escape from a mob intent on lynching him. His wife died shortly after the attack.

y were married three years ago, and before last she left him to return to her father's home. The mothers of the pair were in the parlor of the wife's parents' residence talking with Mrs. Whittager over a way to a reconciliation with her husband, when he entered and in a few minutes lost his temper because his wife persisted in saying he would have to treat her much better than heretofore if she per much better than heretoning again.

Whittager ran from the house. News of the affair quickly spread and hundreds of the anal boys started in pursuit of Whit-tager, finding him after a hard chase. Some were armed with ropes and were determined to hang him at once. He ran into the underbrush and cut across the hills, hoping to meet a freight train and get out of the region. As he entered town he

BOTH HE AND BINGHAM SILENT AS TO CAUSES.

No Intimation of Who Will Take His Place on Jan. 1—His Loquaciousness Gen-erally Understood to Have Compelled His Withdrawal-Letters Exchanged

Third Deputy Commissioner Mathot has resigned from the Police Department, the resignation to take effect January 1 and his resignation has been accepted by Commissioner Bingham. Deputy Mathot's letter, dated December 15, and the reply of the Commissioner, dated last Thursday, were made public yesterday.

Neither the Commissioner nor his Third Deputy would make any statement as to the causes leading up to Mr. Mathot's withdrawa!. All suggestions of rumors telling of friction between the two men were met by reference to the correspondence as a proof of good feeling. Mention of the possibility of the Mayor having something to do with it brought forth a terse, 'Nothing to say." The letters follow:

DEC. 15, 1906. Hon. Theodore A. Bingham, Police Commis-

SIR: I hereby tender my resignation of the office of Third Deputy Police Commissioner of the city of New York, to take effect January 1, 1907.

Department I deem it my duty to and canno but express my deep appreciation of the hearty and cordial relations which have always existed between us, and which, whil thus ceasing officially, will, I sincerely hope ong personally continue.

The time spent with you and my associates will ever be one to which I will look back with pleasure and satisfaction With my best wishes to you personally and officially, believe me, yours very truly, WILLIAM L. MATHOT.

DEC. 27, 1906.
William L. Mathot, Third Deputy Police Com-SIR: Yours of December 15 has been received tendering your resignation of the office of Third Deputy Police Commissioner, to take

effect on January 1, 1907. Your resignation is accepted I am very glad we are parting with friendly feeling on both sides, and can assure you of my personal appreciation of your ever ready and untiring support; of your energy; of your valuable suggestions; of the large amount of accomplished work behind you in the department; and of my best wishes for your future success, of which, with your profes sional ability, there would seem to be little doubt. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, THEODORS A. BINGHAM,

Police Commissioner Commissioner Bingham was asked if the newspaper men might see Deputy Mathot.

"You can see Mr. Mathot all you want to," he replied, "but if he says a word about it I will withdraw my letter of acceptance and write him something entirely different."

Nothing could be learned from the Commissioner as to who Mr. Mathot's successor would be or when the appointment would missioner as to who Mr. Mathot's successor would be or when the appointment would be made. There were about a score of names on the list, the Commissioner said.

"What will be done with the Schmittberger trial?" he was asked.

"That will go on," briefly replied the Commissioner.

missioner.

"And the charges against Inspector
Kane, of Brooklyn?"

"They, too, will be taken care of."

"Wouldn't it be a nice New Year's present
to Inspector Schmittburger to drop the
case against him?"

case against him?"

The Commissioner smiled.

Mr. Mathot gave a luncheon to his old associates at noon yesterday. When he had returned to Headquarters he was asked the causes for his resignation.

"I don't know as there is anything to say," he replied.

"But there surely are causes you could tell?"

"There undoubtedly are causes, here undoubtedly are causes, but nothing which I can give out. I don't know that a man in public office is compelled to remain there the rest of his days. The correspondence between Commissioner Bingham and myself is the best proof of our continued friendship and lack of friction."

Mr. Mathot didn's think his farewe uncheon to his colleagues to be of sufficient interest for publication. Commissioner Bingham did not attend on account of "pressing business at the last moment," Mr. Mathot said.

Mr. Mathot said.

Headquarters gossip attributes the resignation to a break with both Commissioner Bingham and Mayor McClellan growing out of Mr. Mathot's loquaciousness on two occasions, once when he declared to Dr. Parkhurst in the Jefferson Market court that some Y. M. C. A. men owned poolrooms, and again in the trial of Caruso, when he asserted that other prominent men, including one bishop, had been arrested by the park police charged with similar offences.

Capt. Ambrose M. Matthews, one of the best known citizens of Orange, N. J., died at his ome, 93 Berkeley place, in that city yesterday of kidney trouble after an illness than a year. He was 70 years old and had spent his entire life in Orange. He got niss military title from service in the Thirteenth New Jersey Volunteers in the civil war. He was wounded three times in battle. After the war he took a leading part in Grand Army affairs and served one term as commander of the New Jersey posts. He engaged in the coal business in Orange and dealt in real estate and became well to do. He was the first president of the Second National Bank of Orange. He was always an enthusiantic Republican and one of the largest contributors to the party funds. When a post office was established in Orange Valley, part of the city of Orange, but remote from its centre, he accepted the place of postmaster at a nominal salary as a matter of public spirit. He resigned the place as soon as it became profitable. His father was John E. Matthews, one of the best known old line Democrats in northern New Jersey in the first half of the last century. He is survived by a wife, two daughters, a son, a brother and a sister. Charlemagne Laurier died at Montreal, spent his entire life in Orange. He got nis

daughters, a son, a brother and a sister.

Charlemagne Laurier died at Montreal,
Canada, at 11:16 on Friday evening. He was
a half brother of the Premier, Sir Wilfrid
Laurier, both being sons of the late Carolus
Laurier. The mother of Sir Wilfrid was
Marielle Martineau, and that of Charlemagne,
Adeline Ethier. He was born at St. Lin,
L'Assomption county, province of Quebec, on
January 7, 1852. He was first elected to the
House of Commons for L'Assomption in 1900,
and again in 1904. He was married in 1875 to
Utalie Pauze.

Michael Gavin, a former member of the

Utalie Pauze.

Michael Gavin, a former member of the New York Produce Exchange, died in Middletown, N. Y., yesterday, at the age of 69 years. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, and came to this country in early life. He became prominent on the Produce Exchange, where he was recognized as an expert on wheat. He retired from active business in 1883 and had since lived in Middletown.

Mrs. Emily Vandervaer, Devendorf, widow.

since lived in Middletown.

Mrs. Emily Vanderveer Devendorf, widow of George Smith Devendorf, died in Amsterdam, N. Y.. yesterday at the age of 68 years. She was prominently connected with the charitable institutions of Amsterdam and possessed considerable literary and musical ability. Her husband, who was a well known lawyer of Amsterdam, died six years ago. Joseph C. Bigble died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. B. Foster, at Inwood, L. I., yesterday. For twenty-three years he was a justice of the peace in Jamaica. As head of the Town Board he had jurisdiction over all leands under water in Jamaica Bay. He was 98 years old. He was the grandfather of Under Sheriff Joseph Foster.

Sheriff Joseph Foster.

Herbert F. Kinney, a Brooklyn journalist, died yesterday of pneumonia at his home, 175 Wyckoff street, in his forty-fifth year. After graduating from St. Francis Academy he worked for some time on the Catholic Examiner. He was dramatic critic on the Brooklyn Citizen for several years. He was upmarried

Charles K. Parmelee, son of the founder and one of the directors of the Frank Parmelee Transfer Company of Chicago, died at his home in Kenilworth, lil., yesterday as a result of an operation which was performed in New York several months ago. He was 40 years old. Jacques D. Hegeman, 76 years old, died at his home, 36 Forest street, Montclair, N. J., on Friday night. For forty years he had been connected with the Bank for Savings in this city. He is survived by his wife and

Alexander Mitchell Griswold, son of the late Burr W. Griswold, died yesterday at the Post-Graduate Pospital. He was a member of the Union Club and had recently come here from Lenex. The burial will be at Providence.

SAME AN AME AND SHOW B. Altman & Co.

FIFTH AVENUE, 34th and 35th Streets, New York

ANNOUNCE SEVERAL IMPORTANT SALES, COM-PRISING WOMEN'S CLOAKS,

HOUSEHOLD LINENS, BLANKETS, MUSLIN SHEETS AND PILLOW CASES, AND SUMMER DRESS MATERIAL, TO BE HELD AS FOLLOWS

On WEDNESDAY, January 2d,

WOMEN'S CLOAKS

On WEDNESDAY, January 2d, and throughout

MUSLIN SHEETS and PILLOW CASES HOUSEHOLD LINENS, BLANKETS and SUMMER DRESS MATERIAL

will also be offered at much below ordinary prices.

FURS AND FUR GARMENTS

Considerable reductions have been made in the prices of Coats of Broadtail, Ermine, Alaska Sealskin and Persian Lamb, Fur-lined Garments and Novelty Fur Muffs and Neckpieces.

Fur Rugs and Robes at corresponding reductions in price.

On THURSDAY, January 3d, an especially prepared selection of

FUR NECKPIECES and MUFFS.

of popular styles, at considerably below regular prices.

HATS and PARASOLS for the Winter Resorts

Smart designs in Hats to meet the requirements of Southern wear, including new models in straw and maline.

Also attractive novelties in Parasols of embroidered finen. plain or floral taffetas, and Japanese embroidered effects.

Parasols made to order to match costumes. Lace Parasol and Parasolette Covers; Ivory, Jeweled and

other Novelty Handles for special orders.

STORE WILL BE CLOSED DAILY AT SIX P. M.

CITY TAX RECORDS FALSIFIED.

BRONX OFFICE HANDY FOR REAL ESTATE SWINDLERS.

Detectives Looking for Two Clerks-Metz Says That Back Taxes Against Property Were Erased Pending Sales and Put Back After Sales Were Made.

On Comptroller Meta's complaint the District Attorney's detectives are looking for two clerks who until a few days ago were at work in the Bronx office of the Bureau for the Collection of Assessments and Arrears, and who are wanted to explain false entries which have been found in the books of the office.

Mr. Metz said yesterday that it had been discovered that some of the employees of the office had been working in league apparently with land companies and property owners. Just before the sale of many pieces of property on which there were arrears of taxes the books were altered to show that the back taxes had been paid, and after the sale these entries were erased. Mr. Metz said that the inference was that clerks had been bribed to tamper with the books. He explained also that while the books were in the charge of one responsible official it had been learned that some of the clerks had been in the habit of going to the office at night on the plea that they had to finish some uncompleted work, and it is supposed that it was at these times that the suspected employees got access to the books.

When the experts of the Finance Depart. ment began an examination of the books a clerk named Hugh McMenamin sent in his resignation, but the Comptroller refused to accept it and informed McMenamin that the facts had been sent to the District Attorney. Mr. Jerome's men have since been unable to find McMenamin and also another clerk who had disappeared and who was under suspension under the nominal charge of being absent without leave.
The name of this man Mr. Metz would not
make known yesterday nor would he give
out the names of the property owners who are suspected of having brought about a falsification of the books. To make public these names at this time, the Comptroller explained, would interfere with the prose-

"We are having great trouble in getting all the evidence we need," Mr. Metz said. "Up there in that office in The Bronx there are several liars and short memory men who might assist us if they would. Even the man who is in charge of the building at night professes to be unable to remember the names of the clerks who were in the habit of going to the office at night. This instance of irregularities in the Bureau for the Collection of Assessments

and Arrears coming on the heels of the resignation of Collector Edward A. Slattery of the Manhattan bureau has determined the Comptroller to make a thorough investigation of the Brooklyn and Queens offices.

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Finest Teas

For sixty-six years Park & Tilford have imported and sold at lower prices than any other house, the finest Teas grown in Formosa, Japan, China and India. Grades from 28c. to \$1.50 per lb. Personal compari-

son of values desired Price-list mailed promptly

MISS BOGERT A SUICIDE. Englewood Woman Apparently Jumped

From a Fort Lee Ferryboat. Miss Carrie Bogert, who lived with her father and a housekeeper at 79 Tenafly road, Englewood, N. J., disappeared on Friday. It was believed yesterday that she had jumped into the Hudson River

from the Fort Lee ferryboat Edgewater. A long black cloak and a squirrel boa were found carefully laid across the railing on the forward part of the boat on its 5 o'clock trip Friday afternoon. A deckhand turned the property over to Capt. Flannagan and said that no one had been seen to jump overboard. The captain took the articles to the West 125th street

police station and left them there. The relatives of the missing woman learned yesterday that the cloak and boa were those she had worn when she left home Friday afternoon, saying she was going for a walk.

When she did not return for supper her father, Jacob, and the housekeeper thought she had gone to the home of her brother-in-law, Charles Chamberlain, who lives at 59 John street. At 8 o'clock they began to feel worried and went to Chamberlain, a residence. berlain's residence. She had not been there.
The father and brother-in-law spent

most of the night in visiting the homes of relatives. They got no word of her. The housekeeper went to her room yesterday and found a note in which she declared her intention of forgetting her troubles in the Hudson River.

Miss Bogert was 40 years old and up to last July was in charge of the registered letter department of the Englewood post office. She became so nervous that she was obliged to remain at home and go

office. She became so her your and go was obliged to remain at home and go under medical treatment. Dr. Curry, who under medical treatment trouble, said was treating her for nervous trouble, said yesterday that he thought her mind was affected.